



Final Report Food Pantry Drive

We are pleased to report on the Community Food Pantry Drive conducted at New Piasa Chautauqua in 2020, the 135th season of our historical community. The Drive was suggested originally by Mark Hurd in May 2020. Mark contacted a number of Chautauquans to recommend this type of project. The recommendation was acted upon by the Chautauqua Historical Society when Tim Tomlinson contacted Jim Roberts, Chairman of the New Piasa Chautauqua Church Assembly, and Clint McCann, resident minister. There was precedent for and interest in such an activity. Roberts, McCann, and Tomlinson had developed plans for a March for Hunger in 2019. These plans were cancelled because of the flooding that season. The 2020 Food Drive was announced by information on the Chautauqua Facebook page and on the Historical Society website.

The Drive had two major features. Tomlinson contacted staff at the Grafton Food Pantry and the Salvation Army Food Pantry in Jerseyville. A number of collection times were scheduled and the times were posted on Facebook, the CHS website, on community bulletin boards, in the Channels, and by remarks of McCann at Chapel services in the Auditorium. The first collection was June 6, 2020. In all, seven collections were scheduled, with the foodstuffs picked up and/or delivered to Grafton and/or Jerseyville. We believe more than 60 "boxes" of materials were turned over to the Food Pantries.

The second feature was the collection of financial contributions. CHS and NPCCA took a leadership position with an organizational gift of \$500. The Chautauqua Yacht Club gifted \$500, and the Yellow Balloon, the LCIA, and the Players contributed \$250 each. CHS used its PayPal system to encourage individuals to contribute. In all, through PayPal, personal checks, and cash, we collected \$4685. We recorded a total of 34 individual Chautauquans donating to the project. Every dollar collected has been distributed to the two local food pantries: \$1000 to the Salvation Army in Jerseyville, and \$3685 to the Grafton Food Pantry, in an initial check for \$2000 in July, and a final check for \$1685 in December.

*Chautauqua Historical Society
Box 37, Elsah, Illinois, 62028
An Illinois non profit corporation
Contributions to the society are tax deductible under
the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Code.*

On several occasions, from his Chautauqua pulpit in our historic Auditorium, Clint McCann stressed the importance of monetary gifts. With the availability of cash, the food pantries were able to buy goods on a wholesale basis, extending their purchase power. Each recipient organization has refrigeration capacity and could buy meat and dairy products for distribution. The Jerseyville Salvation Army already had an arrangement with Sinclair Foods, and Tomlinson spoke to both Howard Sinclair and Pam Sondheim of Grafton about developing a similar arrangement. For all, it was a win-win situation

In quick view, this is what happened:

Contributions		Output	
Historical Society	\$ 500	Grafton Food Pantry	\$2000
NPCCA	500	Grafton Food Pantry	1685
Yacht Club	500	Salvation Army/Jerseyville	1000
Yellow Balloon	250		
LCIA	250		
Players	250		
Chautauquans	1685		
Total	\$4685		\$4685

These figures, of course, do not provide for the value of the over 60 boxes of foodstuffs delivered to the Grafton Food Pantry and the Salvation Army.

The Food Pantry project was, by almost any measure, a success. Thank you, Mark Hurd, for putting the idea on the community table. Thank you, Chautauqua organizations, for getting behind the project. It was a great partnership opportunity for all of us. Thanks also to the many Chautauquans who donated money and foodstuffs to the effort. Thank you, Carl Raab, for including candy as a donation. The project provided a context for some of the homilies presented by Clint McCann during the season. He and Tim Tomlinson "staffed" the food collection moments, a great opportunity to get to know better one another.

Respectfully submitted:

Tim Tomlinson
 Jim Roberts
 Clint McCann

December 15, 2020

*Chautauqua Historical Society
 Box 37, Elsah, Illinois, 62028
 An Illinois non profit corporation
 Contributions to the society are tax deductible under
 the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Code.*